

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members,

A clean community is a greener city. OAPIA has been a strong advocate in promoting initiatives that help the community become more environmentally sustainable. In the District, OAPIA has partnered with the Office of the Clean City to encourage the AAPI community to participate in an environmentally friendly community program called "[Adopt-a-Block](#)."

Participants in the "[Adopt-a-Block](#)" program adopt and clean up a minimum of two square blocks of a residential or commercial area in the District of Columbia under the guidance of designated group leaders. Businesses and community members commit to two community cleanups per year, for two years.



OAPIA welcomes all AAPI District businesses to participate in this meaningful community building experience. It takes the involvement of everyone to help beautify our neighborhoods and to make the District a cleaner, greener, and better place for all to live in.

Warm Wishes,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA in the Community

Yuri Kochiyama, Japanese American Civil Rights Leader and Trailblazer, Passes Away

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) expressed their profound sadness and mourn the passing of prominent civil rights pioneer Yuri Kochiyama.

Born and raised in California, Yuri Kochiyama and her family were relocated to internment camps shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In the 1960s, Yuri and her husband Bill Kochiyama moved to Harlem in New York City, where she began her involvement in the civil rights movement and committed the rest of her life to activism, spending the last years inspiring countless young activists.

"Yuri Kochiyama was regarded as an influential voice for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) activists during the civil rights movement, and one who was able to build strong coalitions across racial and ethnic lines," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director. "As we mourn her passing in the District of Columbia and nationwide, we will continue to remember her commitment to the AAPI community and the lasting impacts of her legacy."

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Attends 2014 Kaur Foundation Conference & Gala



OAPIA Director Koo at the 2014 Kaur Foundation Conference and Gala.

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo attended the 2014 Kaur Foundation Conference and Gala, which recognized MasterChef Vikas Khanna for his humanitarian work. The Kaur Foundation is a national non-profit organization that seeks to promote and bring awareness of the Sikh identity, heritage, and secular values.

OAPIA Welcomes International Leadership Foundation (ILF) Civic Fellowship Program Fellows



OAPIA Director Koo making remarks to International Leadership Foundation (ILF) fellows.

On June 8, 2014, OAPIA Director Koo shared her professional journey in public service to student fellows of the International Leadership Foundation (ILF) Civic Fellowship Program.

OAPIA Attends Hepatitis B Initiative (HBI-DC) Gala and Dinner



OAPIA Director Koo noting the importance of partnerships and community engagement.

On Sunday, June 8, 2014, OAPIA Director Koo made remarks at the Hepatitis B Initiative

(HBI-DC)'s annual gala and dinner fundraiser.

OAPIA Hosts Housing Workshop for District Residents



Workshop attendees listen to information from the DC Housing Authority.



District residents at the housing workshop.

On June 10, 2014, OAPIA hosted a housing workshop for District residents at the Chinese

Community Church and provided language interpretation. The workshop included three speakers from different agencies to speak on housing related issues. The director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program from the DC Housing Authority (DCHA), Ron McCoy, spoke about the role of DCHA and presented information on housing vouchers. Julie Becker from the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia presented information on the legal rights of tenants. Lastly, Delores Anderson, Program Analyst, represented the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA); she talked about the assistance that OTA can provide to District tenants.

OAPIA Welcomes Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Conference (VAYLC) Participants



OAPIA Director Koo and staff and participants from the Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Conference (VAYLC).

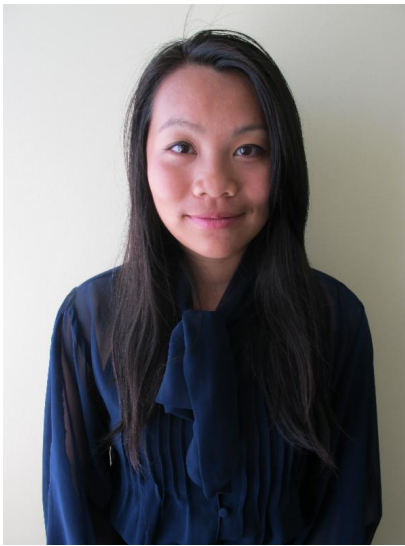
On Friday, June 13, 2014, OAPIA welcomed student participants from the Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Conference (VAYLC). OAPIA Director Koo made remarks and presented an overview of OAPIA and its programs and services.

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Summer Interns

Annie Xiao was born in southern China, and immigrated to San Francisco, California in 2005. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics as a senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Annie is an active advocate for the Chinese community and had been working within diverse communities in San Francisco since the age of sixteen.

Annie has assisted clients coming from different backgrounds and cultures at the Stonestown Family YMCA in San Francisco, and at an SAT institute, Elite Educational Institute, to help support local Chinese clients



Annie Xiao

Her favorite subjects at school are math and science, as she is planning to become a teacher or major in chemistry in college.

Christine is a hard working advocate of the Korean American community and is very connected to the youth. Christine also volunteers frequently at the Washington Youth Foundation and the Korean school at Global Mission Church to help young children and youth her age learn about the Korean language and culture. Christine is very excited to work at OAPIA.

with language barriers. As an avid supporter for the education of newly immigrated students, Annie believes that the best way to help them break through the language barrier is by providing these students with the best assistance and resources available.

Christine Park was born in South Korea and raised in Manchester, Connecticut, and later moved to Gaithersburg, Maryland. She is currently a rising junior at Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, Maryland.



Christine Park

Spotlight: Asian & Pacific Islander Queers United for Action (AQUA)



Asian & Pacific Islander Queers United for Action (AQUA) is an all-volunteer organization promoting community awareness for the queer Asian Pacific Islander (API) community in the metro Washington, DC area. As a fast growing organization serving the gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning members of the API community, AQUA holds a strong emphasis on the issues and interests facing the queer APIs. Furthermore, AQUA aims to reach out to prospective members through advocacy, education, outreach, and social events, with the objective of building and delivering a positive image of queer APIs members to the community.

For more information on AQUA or ways to get involved, please contact aquadc@gmail.com or visit [here](#).

June is National Homeownership Month



For more than a century, owning a home has meant a lot to every individual, especially for new immigrants in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Each June during National Homeownership Month, Americans have the opportunity to reflect on how homeownership has enhanced their lives and contributed to the thriving communities we call home. Home builders continue to work with housing finance innovators, consumer education organizations, and government officials to advance and protect affordable homeownership opportunities in our country and to help families achieve the American dream of homeownership.

This month, DC government agencies will provide useful housing information to residents that include, but are not limited to: home purchase assistance, financial literacy, new affordable housing developments and much more.

For more information on National Homeownership Month or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [DC Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#)
- [DHCD Sixth Annual DC Housing Expo/Home Show](#)
- [DHCD: Funding Opportunities, Eligibility and Application Process Presentation](#)

oapia@dc.gov | www.apia.dc.gov | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to oapia@dc.gov by oapia@dc.gov | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



OAPIA | 441 4th St NW | Suite 721 North | Washington | DC | 20001